to (f) The Government *has* been contemplating, to involve private sector in construction, maintenance and operation of fee-based facilities on National Highways. In order to elicit views in this regard, a seminar was organised in January, 1992 with representatives from private sector, financial instituions, State Governments etc. A study on various aspects of privatisation, under assistance from Asian Development Bank, has also been got completed recently. Having regard to these developments, the incentives proposed to be given to the private sector in respect of various obligations are yet to be finalised by the Government. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the response by foreign and domestic entrepreneurs about investment in National Highways/Expressways.

Financial Position of Shipping Corporation of India

25S4. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned or loss suffered by the Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years till date;

(b) whether there is any proposal to add more ships to the existing fleet of the Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the foreign assistance proposed to be obtained in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER) : (a) The net profit after tax earned by Shipping Corporation of India for the last three years is as under :—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	101.1
1990-91	54.5
1991-92 (Provisional)	108.8

(k) Yes, *Sir.*

(c) In edition to 9 vessels on order, the Shipping Corporation of India have proposed to place, orders for 79 vessels of 28.33 lakhs DWT during the 8th Plan period. Out of these , the Shipping Corporation of India acquired two second-hand vessels of 66,000 DWT in April, 1992 from an Indian company.

(d) For the purpose of financing the acquisition from overseas, foreign exchange loans would be raised through (a) Deferred credit offered by the Shipyards and/or (b) External Commercial Borrowings.

Highway Patrolling in and Around Delhi

2585. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

WiU the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Highway patrolling scheme in and around Delhi had been abandoned;

(b) what were the objectives of the scheme and the reasons for abondoning the same;

(c) whether in view of the importance of the scheme to ensure smoothness and security of traffic and providing aid to the victims of accidents *he scheme is being or has be:n revived and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI IAGD1SH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) A pilot highway patrolling scheme was started during 1983-84 and had\ as one of its main objective the improvement of road safety and enforcement of traffic discipline on the National Highways. Under the scheme, traffic aid posts were also set set up at a distance of 50 to 60 kilometers. This scheme was discontinued in June, 1988.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Highway accident relief scheme, as a pilot project, woufd be launched, on certain stretches of national highways. Under this scheme, ambulance services for removing of victims of road accidents to the nearest medical centre as well as break-down service* for accidented vehicles is envisaged.

Impact of Red Lite ftaca

2586. DR. YELAMANCHIJLI STVAJ1 : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have assessed the situation arising due to plying 3000 Red-line buses on Delhi roads which have and would create traffic chaos/problems; and (b)if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) . (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government do not believe that the paying of Red Line buses on Delhi roads would create any traffic problems. It is hoped that with the introduction of these additional buses, the number of personalised vehicles on the road would decline and thereby improve traffic conditions on Delhi roads.

Abolition of contract system for Coal Handling at Madras Port

2587. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Ministe rof SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the Trade Unions at Madras Port for abolition of the contract system for coal handling;

(b) whether it is a fact that Madras Port Workers' Union have brought the malpractices in the contract system of coal handling to the notice of the management

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that a host of benami stevedores were operating to Madras Port;

(e) whether the cost of carrying coal from Haldia to Madras is*more than the cost of carrying coal from Haldia to Tuti-corin in the despite less distance; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPOR1 (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) . (a) to (c) Yes.Sir... However the contract ha_s been awarded by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and not by the Port Trust. Madras Port Trust is aware about certain news item appearing in the pres3 but no report has been received from the Madras Port Workers* Union by the Management.

(d) As per the records of stevedores available with the Port Trust, no benami stevedores were/are operating at Madras Port,

(e) and (f) Such records are not avil-able with Madras Port Trust as this is done by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, which is under the State Government.

Withdrawal of Proposal to sell Land in Bombay

2588. SHRI WREN J SHAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased t0| state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which ap peared in the Economic Times of the 16th September, 1992 about the National Tex tile Corporation having withdrawn the proposed sale of land of certain textile mills in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the detail in this regard;

(c) whether it is a! fact that NTC failed to produce before the High Court of Bombay any modernisation scheme;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for NTC's withdrawal of the proposal from the High Court;

(f) whether the High Court has issued a Notice to NTC to appear and explain their position in the court; and

(g) if, how the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NTC had proposed to sell 9 properties of nationalised mills located in various places all over the country.